

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 07998 140258Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /093 W
-----141207Z 121525 /41

R 131830Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3898
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS LONDON 07998

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
SUBJECT: DEFENSE DEBATE IN HOUSE OF LORDS, 12 MAY 1977

REF: (A) LONDON 5017, (B) LONDON 5166

1. AWARE THAT CONSERVATIVE PEERS HAD EVERY INTENTION
OF USING THEIR SUBSTANTIAL IN-BUILT MAJORITY IN THE
HOUSE OF LORDS TO INFLICT A DEFEAT ON THE GOVERNMENT,
LABOR PEERS AVOIDED THE FORMAL EMBARRASSMENT OF DEFEAT
BY EMPLOYING THE SAME TACTICS USED BY THE GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOUSE IN MARCH (FOR THE VOTING ON THE WHITE
PAPER ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES)--THEY FAILED TO PUT IN
TELLERS WHEN THE CONSERVATIVES INSISTED ON FORCING A
VOTE AT THE END OF THE DEFENSE DEBATE. AS A RESULT
THE DIVISION WAS CALLED OFF AND LORD ORR-EWING'S
AMENDMENT REGRETTING THE FIVE RECENT CUTS IN DEFENSE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 07998 140258Z

EXPENDITURE WAS CARRIED WITHOUT A VOTE. THE ORIGINAL
MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS AGREED TO. ONLY TWO GOVERNMENT
PEERS, BOTH MINISTERS (LORD PEART , LORD PRIVY SEAL
AND LORD WINTERBOTTOM, LORD IN WAITING) SPOKE FOR THE
GOVERNMENT.

2. LORD PEART OPENING THE DEBATE MOVED "THAT THIS

HOUSE TAKES NOTE OF THE STATEMENT ON THE DEFENSE ESTIMATES, 1977." LORD ORR-EWING MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO ADD TO THE MOTION THE WORDS "...BUT REGRETS THAT, IN THE FACE OF THE MASSIVE BUILDUP OF THE SOVIET UNION FORCES, THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE CUTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM DEFENSE EXPENDITURE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IN THE CONTRIBUTION THAT OUR ARMED FORCES MAKE TO THE ALLIANCES, AND THEREFORE URGES THAT NO FURTHER CUTS BE MADE AND THAT THE FIGHTING CAPABILITY OF OUR FORCES BE RESTORED AS A MATTER OF THE HIGHEST PRIORITY."

3. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS OBLIGED TO CONCEDE DEFEAT ON THE DEFENSE DEBATE IN THE LORDS--AMID LOUD CHEERS FROM TORY PEERS--THIS DEFEAT LACKS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. HOWEVER, THE CONSERVATIVES WERE ABLE TO ENJOY ITS SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE AS POINTING, ONCE AGAIN, TO THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BELEAGUERED ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS.

SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON07998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-1189
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770562/aaaacbds.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b6723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 5017, 77 LONDON 5166
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2538321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE DEBATE IN HOUSE OF LORDS, 12 MAY 1977
TAGS: MPOL, PGOV, UK, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b6723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009